

**Safety on Roadways-** It is important to stay safe while driving in hazardous weather. Below are procedures you can follow to keep safe.

**Thunderstorms-** Stay away from downed trees and power lines. If raining heavily, pull onto the shoulder of the road away from trees that could fall on your vehicle. Stay in the car and turn on your emergency flashers until heavy rain subsides. Be cautious for flooding on the roadway.



**Tornadoes-** Never attempt to outrun a tornado in your vehicle. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and lift cars off the roadway. Try to find a safe shelter immediately in a sturdy building. If one can't be found, find a low-lying area away from your vehicle. Do not go under an overpass or bridge to protect yourself from the storm. Overpasses can be extremely dangerous by exposing you to flying debris and increased winds.

**Flooding-** If standing water is in the roadway, never drive through it. It only takes 2 feet of water to float most vehicles. Remember the phrase ***“Turn around, don't drown,”*** since you don't know if the roadway has been washed away by the water covering it. If your car stalls get out of it immediately and seek higher ground quickly. Rapidly rising water can pick your car up and sweep it away. Be very careful when driving at night, as flooded roadways can be difficult to see.



**Winter Storms-** Before the winter season, winterize your vehicle. Make sure you carry a cell phone with you in case your car breaks down or gets stuck. Let others know where you plan on traveling and tell them how long you will be. Use caution while driving and be aware of ice on the roadway. Keep your gas tank full to avoid ice formation in the tank and fuel lines. If you become stuck stay in your vehicle since you will quickly become disoriented in wind-driven snow and cold. Run the motor 10 minutes each hour for heat. Crack the window for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.



## Disaster Kit For Cars

It is important to have a disaster kit for your car too. You want to make sure you will be protected if you become stranded by a winter storm. This kit should include:



First aid kit, canned food, can opener, protective clothing, bottled water, battery operated radio, pocket knife, flashlight, extra batteries, emergency phone numbers, kitty litter, small shovel, tool kit, mobile phone with charger, compass and road maps, high energy food, extra clothing, windshield scraper and brush, battery booster cables, and blankets/sleeping bags.

## Practice and Maintain Your Disaster Plan

Now that you know how to prepare for different types of disasters, it is important to practice and maintain your disaster plan.

1. Quiz your family on these disaster tips at least twice a year.
2. Conduct mock disaster drills/evacuations with your family on a regular basis.
3. Replace stored food and water every six months.
4. Test and recharge fire extinguishers according to the manufacturer's label.
5. Test your smoke detectors on a monthly basis and change the batteries once a year.

For more information on disaster preparedness, check out the following websites:

NWS: [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

FEMA: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

For information on road conditions contact the following:

Kentucky Transportation Department: 511

Indiana Transportation Department: 1-800-261-7623



Designed by Sarah Ede

# Weather Safety Are You Prepared?



## National Weather Service (NWS) - Louisville

### Contact Information:

**Telephone:** 502.969.8842 or 502.968.2676

**Mail:** 6201 Theiler Lane, Louisville, KY 40229

**Email:** [w-lmk.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-lmk.webmaster@noaa.gov)

**Website:** [www.weather.gov/louisville](http://www.weather.gov/louisville)



Weather disasters can occur at any time of the year and come in many forms (severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, flash flooding/flooding etc.). When they



do occur, it's important for you and your family to be prepared. We recommend that every household has a NOAA Weather Radio to obtain all the latest watches, warnings,

and weather information from the NWS. NOAA Weather Radio with the Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) feature allow you to program it for your own county and surrounding counties. If you do not know how to program your weather radio, call us at 502-969-8842.

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## Watch vs. Warning

A **watch** means conditions are favorable for the development of a specific significant weather hazard as indicated by the National Weather Service.

A **warning** means the event is imminent or already occurring, and it's time to take actions to protect yourself from possible bodily harm and to protect property.

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## Create A Disaster Plan

Before a disaster occurs, it is important to sit down with your family and **create a disaster plan**. Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen where you live and know what to do **in each case**. It's also important to pick at least two places for your family to meet after disaster strikes.



- The first place should be a safe distance outside the home in case of a sudden emergency like a fire.
- The second should be outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Make sure everyone knows an address and phone number for this location.

Ask for an **out-of-state friend or relative to be your family contact**. **If you get separated, everyone should call this person to let him or her know you're alright.**

Once you have made your family disaster plan, it's important to **complete a checklist of what to do when a disaster occurs**.

1. Find the safest place in your home for each type of disaster.

2. Figure out the best escape routes from your home. Make sure you know at least two ways out of each room.

3. Post emergency telephone numbers by your phone and teach children how to call 911.

4. Have smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.

5. Stock emergency supplies, and assemble a disaster supply kit (see below).

6. Obtain training from your local fire department on how to use an ABC type fire extinguisher.

7. Show each family member how and when to turn off the utilities (water, gas, and electricity) at the main switches.

8. Take a first aid/CPR class.

9. Check to see if your family has adequate insurance coverage for your car and home.

10. Keep important family documents in a waterproof and fire-resistant container.

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## Disaster Kit For Your Home

You should store three days worth of supplies in a sturdy backpack, duffle bag, or covered trash containers. This kit should include:



Bottled water (a gallon per person per day), food that won't spoil, one change of clothing and a blanket per person, a first aid kit that includes family prescriptions, battery power flashlight and radio, extra batteries, an extra set of car keys, credit cards, travelers checks, or cash, sanitation supplies, special items for infants, elderly and disabled family members, and an extra pair of glasses if appropriate.

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## What To Do When Significant Hazards Strike

**Thunderstorms**– Stay off corded phones unless it's an emergency. Stay away from windows and doors. Do not take a bath or shower and **turn off all electronic equipment**. If you're outside get inside a safe shelter immediately, such as a strong sturdy building or a vehicle.

**Lightning**– Stay away from open fields, water, and trees. If you can't find a shelter or a vehicle, go to a low-lying



place away from trees, poles, and metal objects. Make sure this place is not subject to flooding. Be a low target i.e., squat low to the ground placing your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible so lightning won't strike.



**Tornadoes**– When a tornado warning is issued, **go to the lowest level of your home like a basement**. If you do not have a basement go into an **interior closet or bathroom** with no windows on the lowest floor of your home. **Cover your head with blankets and pillows**.



- If you live in a mobile home, plan ahead of time where to go in case of a tornado. Make sure this safe place is a sustainable structure.
- When a tornado warning is issued, go to this safe place immediately or even before you hear a warning.
- It is not safe to stay in a mobile home if a tornado threatens.
- If you can't reach a safe structure, lie in a ditch or low-lying area a good distance away from your home.
- It is also recommended to tie down or anchor your mobile home.

**Flash Flooding**–Know where streams are located from the proximity of your home. Flooding can be caused by rain falling upstream that moves downstream in a short amount of time. If flood waters rise close to your home, evacuate immediately and **seek higher ground**.



**Winter Storms**– Stay indoors if possible. If you must go outside, wear layers of lightweight warm clothing.

- Store plenty of high energy food that requires no cooking or refrigeration. This can be dried fruit, mixed nuts, and granola bars.
- Make sure your pets have plenty of food, fresh water, and shelter.
- If your home loses heat, close off unneeded rooms, stuff towels in cracks under doors, cover windows at night, and wear layers of loose-fitting clothing.
- Once a winter storm is over, avoid overexertion. Shoveling snow could lead to a heart attack. Sweating could cause chills and hypothermia.